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Section II:**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR §1.121 to the SPECIFICATION**

Before the heading "Brief Description of the Drawings" on page 10 of the specification, kindly insert the following heading and paragraph:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a system and method which propagates change operations to data items within a metadirectory on a differential basis in order to minimize or eliminate redundant updates to attributes within data items that have not changed, as well as conserve computing resources and transmission bandwidth consumed by update activities in large organizations of data items. A best match entry in the metadirectory is selected using a weighted score process, a determination is made as to exactly which attributes are changed by the update operation, and a differential update is propagated throughout the metadirectory via direct joiner access to the data items, or through remote access such as through LDAP. In the preferred embodiment, the invention is realized as a plug-in for a metadirectory joiner product, but it may alternately be realized as inline software changes or as a stand alone software product.

In the specification, please delete the "Summary of the Invention" paragraphs [0035] and [0036] appearing on page 11:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0035]—The present invention provides a system and method which propagates change operations to data items within a metadirectory on a differential basis in order to minimize or eliminate redundant updates to attributes within data items that have not changed, as well as conserve computing resources and transmission bandwidth consumed by update activities in large organizations of data items. A best match entry in the metadirectory is selected using a weighted score process, a determination is made as to exactly which attributes are changed by the update operation, and a differential update is propagated throughout the metadirectory via direct joiner access to the data items, or through remote access such as through LDAP.

[0036]—In the preferred embodiment, the invention is realized as a plug-in for a metadirectory joiner product, but it may alternately be realized as inline software changes or as a stand alone software product.